

“May We Forever Stand:
Massachusetts Commemorates 400 Years of Black Resiliency”
Friday September 20, 2019 7:30p
Greater Framingham Community Church

PRAYER FOR REPENTANCE:
REV. JENNIE BARRETT SIEGEL, PRESIDENT
REV. LAURA EVERETT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jennie: Beloved in Christ, we humbly come before you and God to confess the ways that the Massachusetts Council of Churches has failed and fallen short over these past 117 years. As the current leadership, we confess our participation and perpetuation of our brokenness, and name our longing to be made right.

Laura: Beloved in Christ, we humbly come before you and God to repent for the ways that the Massachusetts Council of Churches has not fully affirmed nor embraced the diversity of the black Christian experience, and in doing so, we have fallen short of the high calling of Jesus Christ and our commitment to one another.

Jennie: We confess that this expression of Christian unity was founded by white, Protestant clergymen, which set the standard for what it meant to be Church. We have failed to see black resiliency. We repent of the ways that we have centered experiences of some Christians and marginalized others. We reject the idolatry of white supremacy.

We confess that the concerns of Black Christians have not been at the forefront of our shared work and witness. We repent of our lack of concern, our deficit of curiosity, our painful disregard and our entanglement in our own racism.

Laura: We confess that we do not know all of our own history- the stories of the Black Christians who worked, served, volunteered, supported, and led the Massachusetts Council of Churches. We repent of the whitewashing of our own story.

We confess our half-starts and our unfinished work. We repent of our inconsistent commitment to honest relationships.

Jennie: We confess that we are incomplete without the whole of the body of Christ. We repent of the delusion that we can save our own sin-sick souls. We come before you, vowing to love, and listen, and learn. We are truly sorry.

Laura: We come before you, knowing that our words are inadequate to the depth of the divisions. We confess, knowing that we can only be redeemed through the grace of Jesus Christ. We repent, in the hope of the Holy Spirit who can lead on till victory is won.